

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EIND, TECN, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR DIALOGUE WITH U.S. ON
INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND TECHNOLOGICAL INTER-
CHANGE

REF: STATE 208532

1. THE UK HAS HAD AN AD HOC ARRANGEMENT WITH FRANCE FOR SEVERAL YEARS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SPECIFIC INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ISSUES. THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS MADE MORE FORMAL IN JUNE OF 1976, AS A PART OF THE CALLAGHAN-GISCARD SUMMIT AGREEMENT THAT THERE SHOULD BE CLOSER OVERALL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT TWO EXCHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE JUNE AND THESE WERE AT THE SENIOR OFFICIAL LEVEL: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY PERMANENT SECRETARY SIR PETER CAREY AND DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INDUSTRY DEL'ESTOILE. THE BRITISH EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE MEETINGS APPROX-
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IMATELY EVERY SIX MONTHS. UK OFFICIALS CONSIDER THAT

THE INITIATIVE FOR THIS PARTICULAR DIALOGUE HAS COME PRIMARILY FROM THE FRENCH, AND THERE IS A FEELING HERE THAT THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN PUSHING A BIT RECENTLY TO SEE THE DIALOGUE TAKE HOLD.

3. THE TWO MEETINGS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN GENERAL EXCHANGES ON RESPECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT. WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHICH INDUSTRIAL SECTORS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED, BUT COOPERATION ON AVIATION MATTERS IS NOT INCLUDED IN THIS PARTICULAR FORUM. ON THE UK SIDE, THE BASIC INTENT IS APPARENTLY TO SEEK AN IMPROVED FRAMEWORK BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS SO THAT PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES AND AGREEMENTS CAN BE FACILITATED.

4. BRITISH OFFICIALS CONSIDER THESE TALKS "USEFUL" BUT THERE IS LITTLE EXPECTATION AT THIS EARLY POINT OF ANYTHING REALLY SIGNIFICANT EMERGING FROM THEM. THEY SEE NOTHING LOST BY TALKING AND VIEW THE MEETINGS AS A HELPFUL DEVICE FOR COMPARING FRENCH AND BRITISH INDUSTRIAL/TECHNOLOGICAL POLICIES. THERE IS SOME VALUE SEEN FOR THE COMMUNITY IN HAVING THE TALKS BECAUSE THEY MAY, ALONG WITH THE IRREGULAR UK/FRG DISCUSSIONS, HELP WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EC INDUSTRIAL POLICY.

ARMSTRONG

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